

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, US
SUBJECT: KOREAN ISSUE AT 31ST UNGA: QUESTION OF PRIORITY

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONMIN STRONGLY URGES THAT WE DECIDE AT AUGUST 5
CORE GROUP MEETING TO SEEK PRIORITY FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN CALLED IN CHARGE AND POLCOUNS AUGUST 3 TO
MAKE STRONG PITCH TO SEEK PRIORITY FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION
AT 31ST UNGA.

2. PAK BEGAN BY OUTLINING THREE BASIC POSSIBILITIES:

(A) NO RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED BY EITHER SIDE;
(B) DEFERMENT OF DEBATE WITHIN GENERAL COMMITTEE OR AT LATER
POINT IN UNGA SESSION;
(C) CONFRONTATIONAL VOTE ON TWO KOREAN RESOLUTIONS.
PAK THOUGHT FIRST TWO POSSIBILITIES COULD NOT BE COUNTED ON.
ALLOWING FOR FACT THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME DISSIDENCE IN FORTH-
COMING NAM AT COLOMBO THAT WOULD SERVE US WELL DURING 31ST UNGA
SESSION, PAK NONETHELESS CONVINCED NORTH KOREA WILL OBTAIN NAM
RESOLUTION ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLE TO IT AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER
NAM, IF NOT SOMEWHAT SOONER, WILL INSCRIBE HOSTILE RESOLUTION ON
31ST UNGA AGENDA. THERE MIGHT BE POSSIBILITY SUBSEQUENTLY TO WIN
DEFERMENT OF DEBATE IN GENERAL COMMITTEE SESSION BUT WE COULD NOT
BE AT ALL CERTAIN OF THAT. WE COULD ALSO TRY, PARK BELIEVES, TO

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HAVE QUESTION MOVED TO END OF UNGA SESSION, THEN IN LAST

MINUTE RUSH TO END SESSION SEEK DEFERMENT, BUT OUTCOME OF THIS TACTIC ALSO PROBLEMATIC. THEREFORE, IN PARK'S VIEW TO BE REALISTIC WE MUST ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE FULL DEBATE AND VOTING ON OPPOSING RESOLUTIONS.

3. PRIORITY IN THIS CASE IN PAK VIEW COULD BE VITAL FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, WERE HOSTILE RESOLUTION TO HAVE PRIORITY NORTH COULD MOVE TO BLOCK VOTE ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER PASSAGE OF ITS OWN RESOLUTION, WHICH FULLY EXPECTED. THERE THEN WOULD BE REAL DANGER IN HEAD TO HEAD SHOWDOWN THAT FRIENDLY RESOLVE WOULD NOT EVEN COME TO VOTE. SECONDLY, PRIORITY CARRIES WITH IT REAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE IN VOTING.

4. IN VIEW THESE PROSPECTS PAK CONCLUDES THAT WE MUST BE SURE TO INSCRIBE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION BEFORE HOSTILE SIDE. SOME WORRIED, SAID PAK, THAT THIS WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR PROFESSED DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER, SINCE IT NOW CLEAR THAT OTHER SIDE VERY UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT SECRETARY'S RECENT FOUR POWER CONFERENCE PROPOSAL AND THAT DPRK WOULD SEEK PASSAGE ITS OWN RESOLUTION, WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH INSCRIPTION OUR OWN RESOLUTION, ANNOUNCING AT SAME TIME THIS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO DEFEND OUR OWN POSITION. FONMIN PAK SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE INSCRIPTION OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE ANY SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON DIALOGUE AT NON-ALIGNED MEETING OR ON AMOUNT OF SUPPORT ROK COULD EXPECT FROM NON-ALIGNED IN UNGA DEBATE. AS REGARDS PRIME MINISTER CHOI KYU-HA'S RECENT SUGGESTION (SEOUL 5652), PAK SAID HE OPPOSED PRIME MINISTER PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE PROMISE TO WITHDRAW FRIENDLY RESOLUTION IF OTHER SIDE DID SO IN COVERING EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM. INSTEAD, PAK WOULD PLAN HIMSELF TO ANNOUNCE IN SEOUL AT TIME OF INSCRIPTION THAT IF OTHER SIDE FULLY UNDERSTANDS AND AGREES TO OUR DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, ROKS PREPARED TO ASK INSCRIBERS OF FRIENDLY PIYBUUSOLUTION. MOFA CURRENTLY PREPARING DRAFT OF THIS PROPOSED STATEMENT.

5. PAK SAID HE HAD NO FIXED IDEAS AS TO PRECISELY WHEN FRIENDLY RESOLUTION SHOULD BE INSCRIBED AS LONG AS WE GOT IN AHEAD OTHER SIDE. QUESTION WHETHER IT SHOULD BE DONE PRIOR TO AUGUST 11 WHEN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN SRI LANKA OR AT SOME DATE BETWEEN 11TH AND CLOSE OF NAM SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT NEW YORK

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AUGUST 5 CORE MEETING. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HOSTILE SIDE HAD FOUGHT HARD LAST YEAR FOR PRIORITY, WAS AWARE OF PRIORITY'S SIGNIFICANCE, AND COULD INSCRIBE PRIOR TO END OF NAM, PARTICULARLY IF IT PRECEIVED FRIENDLY SIDE WAS ITSELF MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION.

6. PAK CONCLUDED BY STRESSING NECESSITY WASIING NO MORE TIME AND DECIDING ON PRIORITY QUESTION AUGUST 5. PAK SAID HE BELIEVED WEST GERMANS, BELGIANS, AND BRITISH ALL AGREED ON THIS POINT. IF WE

LOSE BY A LITTLE MISTAKE SUCH AS NOT SUPPORTING PRIORITY, HE COMMENTED, IT WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE UNDERSTOOD, AND ARGUMENT THAT WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING OUR CONSISTENCY WOULD HOLD NO WATER. IF U.S. HAD SOME OTHER FORMULA FOR ASSURING FAVORABLE OUTCOME ROKG WOULD OF COURSE WISH TO CONSIDER THIS CAREFULLY, BUT, SAID PAK, HE BELIEVED THIS WAS TIME TO ACT DECISIVELY.

5. COMMENT: THREE ROKG THEMES ARE OBVIOUS: (1) PESSIMISM RE OUT-COME OF NAM DELIBERATIONS; (2) TOP PRIORITY TO INTRODUCTION OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AT LEAST PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND PROBABLY PRIOR TO NAM SUMMIT AND (3) EXTREME CONCERN WITH POSSIBLE DEFEAT OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. ON SECOND POINT, JUST PRIOR TO CHARGE'S DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE, PAK ASKED WHETHER WE HAD FULLY UNDERSTOOD HIM. THIS WAS FOLLOWED UP BY CALL FROM DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS TO POLCOUNS WITH IDENTICAL QUERY. ALL THIS OF COURSE LINKED TO THIRD POINT, WHICH AS TIME GETS CLOSER TO DECISION POINT, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE EMPHASIZED EVEN MORE.

6. IN VIEW OBVIOUS URGENCY ROKS NOW ATTACH THIS QUESTION, WE URGE THAT ROK SCENARIO BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. IN SO DOING WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND POSSIBILITY FRIENDLY RESOLUTION COULD BE DEFEATED. IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR TENSIONS LIKELY TO BE HIGH AND "SCAPEGOATS" SOUGHT. IF ON OTHER HAND USG FOLLOWS ROK RECOMMENDATIONS, AND DESPITE THAT, FRIENDLY RESOLUTION DEFEATED, THEN AT LEAST SOLE FINGER OF BLAME CANNOT BE POINTED AT U.S. STERN

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